

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Rickey D. Hart et al.
Serial No.: 09/340,584
Filing Date: 06/28/99
Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
USING THE SAME
Group Art Unit: 3731 to 6
Examiner: W. Lewis
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-15 CON 2

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please insert:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Application

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/340,584, filed 06/28/99 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME, which in turn is a continuation of prior application Serial No. 09/174,814, filed 10/19/98 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME, which in turn is a continuation of prior application Serial No. 08/560,111, filed 11/17/95 by Rickey D. Hart and John T. Rice for SURGICAL FASTENING AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME. --